

# SKYLINE SUMMER YURT GUIDE

Skyline yurt is ideally located for summer use. Many miles of old roads and single-track trails are easily accessed. The yurt is located on the highest point in the area just off the Skyline trail. Its elevation of 5900 feet and open, park-like setting guarantee cool evenings/breezes all summer long. The 200° view north, east, and south from the yurt is one the best in the Boise National Forest. From the yurt deck you can see Jackson Peak, Wolf Mountain, Steele Mountain, Sunset Peak, and Pilot's Peak. Numerous large spruce trees nearby provide a nice shaded area for picnics. A few hundred feet from the site is a prime huckleberry patch. In the fall, flaming red/yellow/orange aspens frame the mountain peaks to the east. A protected tent area is available for extra persons. The yurt site is usually snow free from May 1 through November 15.

## **Reservations:**

Reservations for stays within IDPR Idaho City Backcountry Yurts can be online at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov) or toll free 1-866-634-3246. Reservations are accepted 9-months in advance of your intended stay and no later than 48-hours prior to your intended arrival. A non-refundable fee of \$6 is assessed at the time your reservation is made. All fees must be paid in advance of your stay.

Yurts are reserved from 2 p.m. the day of your reservation until 1 p.m. the following afternoon. The maximum length of stay in the same yurt is 5 days.

## **How To Get There (June 15 to September 15):**

Drive to the Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot which is 21 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. About 200 feet past the Gold Fork parking lot turn right onto the first gravel forest road. You will immediately pass through a light green metal road gate. Trails are marked with blue and yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. Drive on this primitive forest service road about .3 miles to the Skyline/Summit trail intersection, noted by a 4x4 wood signpost. Stay left on the Skyline trail and continue to climb for .7 miles until you come to another road intersection. Stay right on Skyline trail. Continue to follow the main road for .6 miles until you come to the Ralph's/Skyline trail's intersection. Just beyond this intersection is the summer parking area. Hike or bike up Skyline trail, which is now closed to motor vehicles. About .4 miles you will be at the trail's high point. Travel downhill for about 100 feet until you see a 4x4 wooden post with 4" yellow blazes and a large (2') yellow sign on it. Turn right (west) and follow the 4" yellow blazes 200 yards on a single-track trail to the yurt. The yurt is located on the highest point in the area. You can't see the yurt from the sign post.

## **How To Get There (September 15th until the first snow):**

The US Forest Service closes the road to the summer yurt parking spot just off Highway 21 to give wildlife such as elk more security. The light green gate is just off the highway and is locked. You must park in the Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot and hike or bike to the yurt following the above directions.

**Elevation Gain and Distance:**

From the summer parking area, 200 feet over about 2 mile. From the Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot, 600 feet over about 2 miles (one-way).

**Wood Pile:**

Wood for the stove is located under the yurt entry deck. Wood for the fire pit is north of the fire pit. There are several downed trees in the area which can be cut with the bow saw or axe provided. Please use downed, dry timber, as it helps clean up the area and aides in fire protection.

**Water:**

Water is available at a creek that crosses the Skyline trail near the Ralph/Skyline trail's intersection and summer yurt parking spot. A 4x4 wood post marks the place where the creek water is most accessible. The creek is about 1/2 mile from the yurt. We recommend this water be boiled for 10 minutes or drawn with a water filter system such as the "First Need."

**Maps Needed:**

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

**Global Positioning System Locations (UTM):**

Skyline Yurt 11 T 612882 E

4872137 N

Gold Fork Parking Lot 11 T 611850 E

4871608 N